

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 03518 201011Z
ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7098

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 03518

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PN, PQ, US
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF PRC MEETING, MAY 17

1. PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: COMMITTEE BRIEFLY DISCUSSED
FORTHCOMING PRESIDENTIAL VISIT. TENTATIVE ITINERARY
FOR PRE-ADVANCE TEAM ARRIVING LATER OF SAME DAY WAS
REVIEWED. IT WAS AGREED DEFINITIVE SCHEDULE OF
PRESIDENT'S VISIT WOULD AWAIT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
OF PRE-ADVANCE PARTY.

2. TREATY IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATION: AMBASSADOR
POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH TREATIES MAY NOT ENTER INTO
FORCE PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1979, IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING BY
USG AND GOP AGENCIES IS GOING FORWARD. HE EXPRESSED
CONCERN THAT PRC PRINCIPALS MIGHT NOT BE KEPT FULLY
INFORMED AS COMPLEX PLANNING PROGRESSES. TO AVOID SUCH A
POSSIBILITY AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRC
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TREATY IMPLEMENTATION WHOSE MEMBERS WOULD
CONSULT AND COORDINATE IMPLEMENTATION MATTERS AND REPORT
PERIODICALLY TO PRC MEMBERS. AMBASSADOR ASKED FOR
OPINIONS AND SAID EMBASSY WOULD DRAFT ERMS OF REFERENCE
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FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING. BOTH GOVERNOR AND
CINC AGREED WITH PROPOSAL AND INDICATED NAMES OF
OFFICIALS THEY WOULD PROPOSE FOR SUBCOMMITTEE.

3. CONTAINER PORT: GOP DESIRE TO BUILD CONTAINER PORT AT
COCO SOLO WAS DISCUSSED. GOVERNOR SAID HE WAS UNCERTAIN
OF EXACT BOUNDARIES OF PROJECT AND ASKED FOR MORE PRECISE

INFORMATION. CINC SAID THAT USG AGREEMENT TO AUTHORIZE CONSTRUCTION OF CONTAINER PORT PRIOR TO ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE TREATIES WOULD BE A MAJOR CONCESSION AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT AN ADEQUATE QUID PRO QUO WOULD BE OBTAINED.

4. SPECIAL AIRCRAFT: CINC NOTED THAT SINCE APPROVAL OF TREATIES THERE IS LESS PANAMANIAN SENSITIVITY TO MILITARY UNITS COMING TO CANAL ZONE. ACCORDINGLY HE PLANS TO AUTHORIZE TEMPORARY DEPLOYMENT TO ZONE OF ONE OR TWO SPECIALLY CONFIGURED C-130 AIRCRAFT WHICH WILL DO SOME SURVEILLANCE AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY. JORDEN

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